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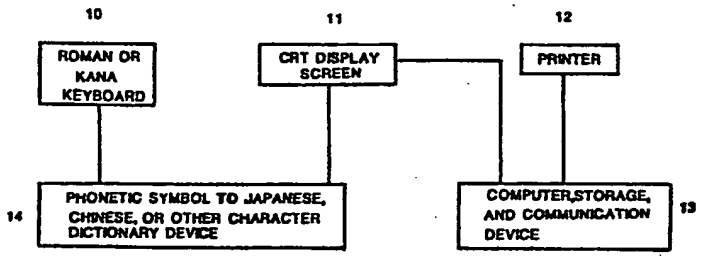
(54) Title: IDEOGRAPHIC WORD SELECTION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

An ideographic word selection system distinguishes between the homonyms of a language as the operator inputs (10) the phonetic spelling of the desired character or word along with one or more related words for that character as necessary for unique selections from among homonyms. An electronically retrievable dictionary (14) includes each ideographic character (16, 17) to be used in the system along with several related words, thus providing for system flexibility for operators of different backgrounds and mnemonic preferences. A comparison of the operator input (10) with the dictionary (14) provides a unique word selection.

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IDEOGRAPHIC WORD SELECTION SYSTEM

The present invention is directed to an ideographic word selection system, and specifically to a character processor which can rapidly enter Chinese, Japanese or Korean characters into a computer system, for example for printing purposes, the foregoing being done from a keyboard having a limited number of keys.

Word or character processing for Oriental languages such as Japanese, Chinese, Korean, etc, has been difficult because of the structure of the written language; that is, there is no limited alphabet, rather thousands of different ideographic words and characters. Other languages, such as Arabic or Farsi, have a written alphabet but also have numerous different ways of writing each letter; the resulting written language is difficult to process using a keyboard for entry because of the number of different characters which could be used. Moreover, if the pronunciation of a character or a word is used to access that character, a large set of homonyms will be produced because of the similar pronunciations of other characters or words. If these are, for example, displayed on a cathode ray tube, it would still be very slow and cumbersome to make specific selections from those visible.

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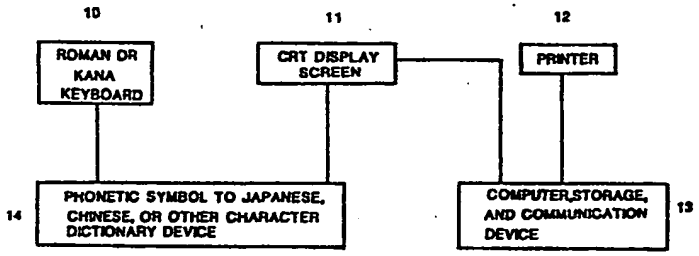

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